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# STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



## MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

for the Year ended  
31st December, 1963

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H. R. MORRISON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

*Startforth Rural District Council.*

*A. E. Pooley,*  
*Clerk of the Council*  
*and*  
*Chief Financial Officer.*

*Telephone 3245.*

*21. Galgate,*  
*Barnard Castle,*

AEP/JK

26th August, 1964.

Dear Sir,

Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report  
Year 1963

I enclose herewith four copies of the Medical Officer of Health's Annual Report for the year 1963.

Yours faithfully,

*A. E. Pooley*  
Clerk of the Council

The Secretary,  
Ministry of Health,  
Alexander Fleming House,  
Elephant & Castle, LONDON, S.E.1.

TO THE CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, of the  
STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report on the health of the District for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

The mid-year population, as estimated by the Registrar General, was 4,450 an increase of 90 on that for the year 1962.

The total number of births was 62, there being 2 deaths of children under one year of age, and no maternal deaths during the year under review.

Deaths totalled 53 (48 in 1962) giving a death rate of 12.98, which is higher than that for England and Wales at 12.20.

Principal causes of death were - 17 heart diseases (17 in 1962), 11 from cancer (7 in 1962), 7 from vascular lesions of the nervous system (9 in 1962).

111 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, compared with 18 in 1962, 80 being measles, 30 Whooping Cough and one Erysipelas.

There was one notification of pulmonary tuberculosis in the District during the year.

#### Immunisations

Immunisation of children against certain infectious diseases continued, the recommended programme being as follows:-

Age 3 - 6 months - triple vaccine against diphtheria, Whooping cough and tetanus (3 doses).

Age 7 - 10 months - Oral (Sabin) Vaccine against Poliomyelitis (3 doses). Booster dose of triple vaccine at 18 - 21 months, a further booster dose of diphtheria and tetanus vaccine at 5 and 8 years.

Vaccination against smallpox is recommended between 1 and 2 years of age.

(contd.)

### Fluoridation of Water

It is unfortunate that in spite of the strong recommendation of the Ministry of Health that water supplies, where the fluoride content is less than one part per million, should have their fluoride content brought up to this figure, this has not been done.

With the shortage of dentists in the country, the cheapest, and most effective means of improving the condition of the teeth of the population is by this method. I am convinced that there is no danger to health, and that the addition of one part per million would reduce the dental caries by at least 50%. It is regrettable that a small misguided body of objectors are delaying this big step forward. It is however heartening to note that the North Riding County Council Health Committee is in favour of this principle of fluoridation of water, and it is to be hoped that the implementation of this will not be too long delayed.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal, Housing and Water Supply

These matters are dealt with by the Public Health Inspector in his report which follows at the end of my report. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude to him for his co-operation and help.

H.R. Morrison,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.



PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health Dr. H.R. Morrison, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector C.D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.A.P.H.I., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in acres	...	97,630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate	...	4,450
Number of inhabited houses	...	1,458
Rateable Value at 1st April, 1963	...	£177,764
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£720
Rate in £ levied at 1st April, 1963,	...	8/9

VITAL STATISTICS

Births

The number of live births registered during the year was 62 as against 89 in 1962. The birth rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is lower than that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons

Live births per 1,000 population, as adjusted  
by Comparability Factor  
Still Births per 1,000 total live and stillbirths.

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Still Births</u>
1962 Startforth Rural District	25.72	11.11
1963 Startforth Rural District	16.02	15.87
1963 England and Wales	18.2	17.30

Analysis of Births

Live Births:-

	1962		1963	
	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	56	31	39	21
Illegitimate	1	1	1	1
Totals	57	32	40	22

Illegitimate Live Births = 3.22%

Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births = 33.33  
 Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births = 00.00  
 Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks) = 16.13 per thousand  
 Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week) = 00.00 total live births  
 Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week combined  
 per 1,000 total live and still births) 15.87.

Still Births :-

		1962		1963	
		M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	-	1	1	-
Illegitimate	...	-	-	-	-
		-	1	1	-

Deaths

Maternal Mortality. No maternal deaths were registered in the District during the year as in the past 6 years.

Infantile Mortality. 2 children under one year died in the District during 1963, as against 4 in 1962.

Infantile Mortality comparisons per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District 1962	...	44.94
Startforth Rural District 1963	...	32.26
England and Wales 1963	...	20.90

Deaths from all Causes. During 1963 there were 53 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 48 in 1962. The death rate being higher than that for England and Wales.

Death Rate Comparisons - per 1,000 population as adjusted by Comparability Factor

Startforth Rural District 1962	...	11.71
Startforth Rural District 1963	...	12.98
England and Wales 1963	...	12.20

Causes of all Deaths - Compared with 1962

		1963		1962	
		M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	...	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	...	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	-	-	1	-
" " Lung, bronchus	...	2	1	1	2
" " Breast	...	-	2	-	-
" " Uterus	...	-	-	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm.	...	3	2	1	1
Leukemia	...	-	1	1	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	...	3	4	5	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	...	5	3	8	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	...	-	-	-	1
Other Heart Diseases	...	3	6	3	2
Influenza	...	-	-	1	-
Bronchitis	...	1	-	-	-
Other Diseases of Respiratory System...	...	-	-	1	-
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	-	-	-	-
Hypertension of Prostate	...	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations	...	2	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	...	1	1	5	1
Motor Vehicles Accidents	...	2	-	-	-
All other accidents	...	1	-	1	1
Suicide	...	-	-	1	1
Pneumonia	...	3	1	-	-
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	1	-	-	-
Other Circulatory Disease	...	-	5	2	1
Totals		27	26	31	17

Number of Deaths from the seven Chief Causes, Rates and Comparisons with previous year.

		per 1,000 population			
		1963		1962	
		No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Cancer	...	11	2.47	7	1.61
Respiratory (non-tuberculosis)...		5	1.12	2	.46
Heart Diseases	...	17	3.82	17	3.90
Tuberculosis - Pulmonary...		-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis - Non-Pulmonary	...	-	-	-	-
Other Circulatory Diseases		5	1.12	3	.69
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System		7	1.57	9	2.05
Totals		45	10.10	38	8.72

Infectious Diseases. There were 111 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1963, as against 18 in 1962.

Analysis of infectious diseases and comparisons with previous year.

		1963	1962
		No. of cases	No. of cases.
Erysipelas	...	1	-
Scarlet Fever	...	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	...	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	-	-
Measles	...	80	18
Whooping Cough	...	30	-
Non paralytic poliomyelitis		-	-
Totals		111	18

Tuberculosis. One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified in 1963.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. No deaths from this disease were registered in the District in 1963, as in 1962.

Vaccinations and Immunisations against Smallpox, Diphtheria and Pertussis.

The number of vaccinations and immunisations carried out in the District in 1962, are as follows :-

	under 5 years		over 5 years	
	Primary	Booster	Primary	Booster
Smallpox	17	5	11	24
Diphtheria	63	4	13	45
Pertussis	67		9	



Immunisations against Poliomyelitis. The following table shows the number of persons who have received immunisation against Poliomyelitis during 1963 :-

	Salk Injections		Oral Vaccine	
	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Booster</u>
Number of persons who have completed course.	11	18	85	74

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946

Sections 22, 23, 24 and 25. Care of Mothers and Young Children, Domiciliary Midwifery, Health Visiting and Home Nursing.

The Infant Welfare Clinic held monthly at Barningham continued during the year. The District Medical Officer was in attendance as well as the District Nurse/Midwives. The Infant Welfare Clinic at Deerbolt is held fortnightly for the wives and children of army personnel with a District Nurse/Midwife in attendance. Mrs. Fraser, District Nurse/Midwife, commenced duties in the Startforth Area in June 1963 and Mrs. Clarke, District Nurse/Midwife commenced duties in the Romaldkirk Area, also in June 1963.

The following number of visits paid to patients in the District by the Nurse Midwife during 1962 under the respective categories are compared with those for 1962 :-

<u>Category</u>		<u>1963</u>	<u>1962</u>
Domiciliary Midwifery	...	451	658
Home Nursing	...	1314	1045
Health Visiting	...	1979	933

Section 27 - Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council from the Ambulance Station which has a staff of one Driver-Foreman, one Shift Leader and six Driver-Attendants.

Section 28 - Prevention of Illness, Care and After-care. The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Meals on Wheels. A meals on Wheels service is operated in the area and is organised by the W.V.S.

Section 29 - Domestic Home Help Service. This service is provided by the North Riding County Council and during 1963 16 cases received help, as compared with 14 in 1962, the analysis and comparison with 1962 being

<u>Category</u>		<u>Cases</u>		<u>Hours</u>	
		1962	1963	1962	1963
Domiciliary Midwifery	...	-	-	-	-
Chronic Sick	...	14	15	4415	3860
Sick Housewife	...	-	1	-	18
		14	16	4415	3878

The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual by Mr. C.D. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector.



### Nuisance Inspection

Total Number of Inspections for Nuisances only .. ..	58
Total Number of Nuisances found .. .. .	9
Number abated by informal action.. .. .	9

### Public Cleansing

During the year a scavenging service operated throughout the area and only a very small number of the remote out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected weekly, although in a few places a fortnightly service meets the requirements, whilst at the Military Establishment in Startforth a twice weekly collection is made.

All refuse is conveyed to one refuse tip which is situated in the parish of Mickleton where controlled tipping is carried out following, so far as is possible, the Ministry of Health Recommendations.

During the year a new access road was constructed into the lower part of the disused quarry which forms the refuse tip and this has resulted in a much improved control of the tip. Two Karrier refuse vehicles and five men are employed on the service and the total annual cost is £4,070.

### Factories Acts 1937 to 1959

<u>Inspections</u>	<u>No. on Register</u>	<u>No. of Inspections</u>
Factories in which sections 1,2,3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	13	18
Factories not included above in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	8	12
Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	6	30

### Cases in which Defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Lack of Cleanliness	2	2	-	1	-

## Outworkers

One outworker is registered for the making, etc, of wearing apparel.

## Inspection and Supervision of Food

Twenty shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Nine of those are licensed to store ice cream for sale.

Three privately owned slaughterhouses are registered and 218 visits for meat inspection were made during the year. The following tables shows the details of the carcasses inspected during the year.

As in former years the animals slaughtered to provide meat for human consumption were of a uniformly high standard of quality and the amount condemned as unfit was a very small percentage of the whole.

The introduction of the Meat Inspection Regulations 1963 has called for some revision of the inspection duties but these have caused little hardship as 99% inspection was already carried out. Relief for periods of holidays, sickness, etc., has been arranged with the co-operation of the local veterinary surgeons.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number Killed	498	-	429	1,632	140	-
Number inspected	496	-	420	1,612	140	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	5	11	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	1.81	-	-	0.31	0.71	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
<u>Cysticercosis</u> Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

### Caravan Sites

The total number of licensed sites in the area at the end of 1963 was twenty-six. All except one, however, were in respect of very small numbers of caravans (less than five). Little difficulty is experienced in controlling these satisfactorily.

The one large site at Startforth accommodates 175 caravans and is generally well conducted. Work proceeded during the year to bring the site up to the standard laid down by the Council and it is expected that this work will be completed in 1964.

During the year one planning application for the establishment of a site for approximately 50/60 caravans was considered and, following the recommendation of the Council, approved by the planning authority. To date, however, no start has been made on the development of the site and it is not expected to come into use before 1965. Two other similar applications were rejected, again following the recommendation of the Council.

### Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The Council has sewerage systems of satisfactory modern design and giving a good standard of effluent at Cotherstone, Romaldkirk, Mickleton and Barningham.

During the year work proceeded on the scheme for the village of Startforth, but the expected completion date of December 1963 was not realized. This was partly due to the extremely severe winter of 1962/63 which held up work for several weeks.



The schemes for the villages of Bowes and Boldron both reached an advanced stage of preparation ready for a start in 1964.

Three other villages, Ovington, Hutton Magna and Lartington remain outstanding and should be commenced by 1965.

This will mean the end of the Council's programme for the provision of sewerage facilities; none of the remaining parts of the district are considered to have sufficient properties in one group to justify the high expenditure required. In the future, however, some consideration should then be given to the provision of a scheme of cesspool emptying, possibly as a free service, to those houses in the area unable to discharge to a public sewer.

#### Water Supply

The water supplies throughout the area are under the control of the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board and no difficulties of operation were experienced during the year. Branch mains were laid during 1963 to provide a new supply to the Greta Bridge area and to provide an improved supply to the village of Hutton Magna.

A total of 55 samples were taken for bacteriological examination during the year; of these 25 were unsatisfactory, largely from private supplies. Advice as to remedial measures was offered in these latter cases.

In addition to the foregoing the Tees Valley and Cleveland Water Board carry out regular routine examinations of all the supplies under their control both bacteriologically and chemically. No chemical analyses have been made on samples taken by the department and I am indebted to the Water Board's Chemist for the information given overleaf which represents the average figure of a number of chemical analyses of the public supplies. Figures given are expressed as parts per million except where otherwise stated.

909 houses are connected to the public mains in the area and a total of 549 are dependent on private supplies of varying sorts, primarily springs.

# ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

	Lartington Rapid Filtration Plant	Lartington Gravitation Supply from the Slow Sand Filtration Plant	Barnard Castle Urban District Reservoir Startforth Village	Hunderthwaite	Holwick	Hutton Magna	Bowes - Boldron	Barningham
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.026	0.009	0.056	0.007	0.012	0.007	0.008	0.008
Albuminoid Nitrogen	0.050	0.100	0.104	0.029	0.075	0.017	0.020	0.031
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.001	0.010	0.004	0.001	0.002	0.004	0.001	0.003
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.4	0.7	0.5	0.25	0.25	3.0	0.3	0.4
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours at 27°C	0.4	7.2	0.68	0.2	4.4	0.03	0.26	1.90
Colour (Hazen)	4	78	4	3	38	4	3	14
Turbidity as Silica	0.8	3	1.9	0.2	1.8	0.6	0.4	1.8
pH	7.4	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.6	7.4	7.6	7.5
Free Carbon Dioxide	2.6	6	10	18.5	3.6	12.5	9	3.3
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	26	30	70	151	75	222	307	98
Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	26	30	70	151	75	222	307	98
Non - Carbonate Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	47	18	14	18	11	81	152	21
Total Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	73	48	84	169	86	303	112	119
Calcium Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	66	42	73	138	79	241	112	102
Magnesium Hardness as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	7	7	11	31	7	62	40	17
Chlorides as Cl	18	8.6	11	9.5	17.5	11	11	12
Phosphates as P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	0.04	8.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04
Silicate as SiO <sub>2</sub>	2	2	8.5	11	4	9	16	7
Iron as Fe	0.11	0.22	0.06	0.06	0.35	0.24	0.08	0.12
Potassium as K	0.85	0.85	1.1	2.0	0.46	1.15	16.7	0.9
Sodium as Na	4.5	4.4	6.6	6.5	11.5	7.4	83	7.0
Total solids dried at 105°C	137	90	131	198	136	367	375	166
Fluoride Content	0.1	0.2	0.15	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.15



## Housing

The Council owns eighty-six Council Houses, six of which were erected in the inter-war years. In addition there are four bungalows converted from the former Infection Diseases Isolation Hospital and eleven old persons bungalows. Towards the end of the year a start was made on the erection of a further nine bungalows at Cotherstone. It is pleasing to record that the plans for each succeeding group of old persons dwellings that the Council has decided to provide has shown an improved design on that preceeding.

There would appear to be a need for further houses and/or bungalows at Startforth but the Council have been rightly hesitant in embarking on these until more was known about the future of the military married families houses attached to the Deerbolt Camp, which latter appears to have been scheduled for closure by the Military Authorities and then reprieved on a number of occasions in recent years. It may be, of course, that these houses would be retained for servicemen's families even if the Army Camp itself was closed. It is appreciated that Military requirements are liable to fluctuate from time to time with little warning, but if it was possible for some precise information to be made available on the subject then the Council would face a much simpler problem than they do now.

During the year applications have been approved for both standard and discretionary grants. Eighteen standard grants were approved and 11 discretionary grants. The total number of grants approved since the introduction of the schemes is 152 and the average amount of grant paid is £109 in the case of standard grants and £278 in the case of discretionary grants. In the case of the latter it is noticed that a considerable number of schemes produced recently are costing more than £800. As this latter figure was first established several years ago together with the maximum grant figure of £400 there would appear to be some force in the argument that it is now due for revision. Quite clearly £800 buys much less improvement work today than it did ten years ago.

It is felt that a figure of 30 - 50 improvement schemes in one year is as much as an already fully employed small rural building force can deal with and if an increased rate is sought it may well result in driving up prices further than they have already risen. Even so, some increase in the number of schemes is required if the provision of modern amenities in all houses is not to take an unduly long time in realization.

## Rodent Control

During the year a total of 14 treatments for the elimination of rats and mice carried out using the principles enumerated by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.





